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ROSE LETTER

of

The Heritage Roses Groups

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ROSES OF WORLD WAR I

Darrell g.h. Schramm

When most well-informed people see or hear the year 1914, they do not think of it as the year when in the USA the assembly line, tinker toys, and Mother's Day were first introduced, nor as the year the Greyhound Bus line and transcontinental telephone services began, let alone the year the brassiere was patented, the Panama Canal opened, and the famous Clayton Anti-trust Law was passed. They think of the First World War, the year the conflict began.

President Woodrow Wilson at first had declared the United States neutral to the war in Europe, but when Germany violated the principle of freedom of the seas (even though England also had done so earlier), Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war. Entering the war late, the U.S. landed its first troops in France in June of 1917. The war would be over seventeen months later. Germany signed the armistice ending it on November 11, 1918.

In the fall of 1914, Herbert Hoover, not yet in politics, a wealthy international businessman living in England at the time,

established a neutral relief agency to obtain and distribute food to the Belgians who were starving as victims of blockades and battlefields preventing the importation of food. While Hoover worked tirelessly without pay to feed the Belgians and the northern French populace (in the end it was said that he had saved more lives than any other person in history), the production and introduction of roses continued in England, Ireland, France, Germany, and the United States.

Of the many roses from 1914, apparently a mere eight still remain in commerce. They are 'Ceres', a hybrid musk; 'White Rambler', a hybrid multiflora, both by Joseph Pemberton; 'Lady Plymouth', a tea rose sold today by one nursery in France; 'Red Letter Day', a hybrid tea sold only in Australia—surprising, since it is a brilliant, velvety scarlet rose that does not burn or fade in the sun—both by Alexander Dickson of Ireland; 'Echo', a miniature polyantha also called 'Baby Tausendschoen'; 'Jacques Porcher', a breathtaking beauty possibly named for a renowned fuchsia grower in Orleans, France, and a hybrid tea—one of my favorites—today sold by only two nurseries, one in Germany, one in France; and 'Dr. Huey', famous as it is, sold only by three nurseries abroad but not in the USA where it has been and still is used as a rootstock. Coiled around a pillar, this American-bred rose is sensational.

The eighth rose is 'Hadley', named for a town in Massachusetts. A hybrid tea developed by Alexander Montgomery, this deep velvet red bloom with an incredibly strong old rose perfume is still sold by six rose nurseries worldwide. A small bush with slate-green leaves and a scattering of silver-white prickles, it blooms almost continuously. Of the 25 early 20th century hybrid teas in my garden, it is among my five favorites.

On June 8, 1915, Admiral and Mrs. Aaron Ward, both for whom roses were named, opened their large garden on their Long Island estate as a benefit to raise funds for the American Ambulance Hospital in Neuilly, a suburb of Paris. (Today that independent institution is simply called the American Hospital of Paris.) The soiree was quite popular, with roses holding "the place of supreme honor." Not everyone in the United States remained utterly neutral.

Though the introduction of new roses in 1915 did not appear to decline, fewer roses from that year remain on the market. Not even the hybrid tea 'Lillian Moore', which won the $1000 prize for best seedling at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco in 1915, has survived. Two roses of 1915 still in commerce are American: 'Bess Lovett' and 'Mary Lovett', both hybrid wichuranas, both by Dr. Van Fleet. Three other roses are English: 'Cupid', a climbing hybrid tea by the old Cant nursery (begun in 1768); 'Paul's Lemon Pillar', also a climbing hybrid tea; and 'Clytemnestra', a hybrid musk shrub with a strong fruity scent by Pemberton. And one is French: the polyantha 'La Marne' by Barbier, a rose named for the First Battle of the Marne, fought early September 1914, which halted the German advance thirty miles from Paris. It is an excellent polyantha with pink ruffled petals glowing in the center, the flowers massed in loose clusters.

Paul's Lemon Pillar

The two Lovett roses are sold by only one nursery each, and 'Cupid is sold by several nurseries still. Both 'Paul's Lemon Pillar', a light yellow, and 'Clytemnestra', an orange pink, are more widely available. The same is true for 'La Marne', though it is far more popular in the U.S. than in Europe. That four of the six are ramblers or climbers suggests the popularity of such roses in the early decades of the 20th century.

La Marne

An interesting side note: It was in October of 1915 that the enthusiastic rose hybridist Father Schoener lost 4,000 promising seedlings (selected from 120,000) to a fire that destroyed his property in Brooks, Oregon. Seven seedlings survived. He did rescue his 10,000 seeds from the 1915 crop but not the hips from the supposedly sterile 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' crossed with 'Lyon Rose'. He soon moved to California and began again. The year 2014 marks his 150th anniversary.

According to Dr. Walter Van Fleet, the 1916 season was not a particularly good one for rose pollination in the open. It may seem surprising that nurserymen were still breeding by the chance method in the 20th century, allowing Mother Nature to cross-pollinate via wind and insect, but this was not the only method. Hand-fertilization was also practiced. Nonetheless, that year early drought in California affected the hip development and thus the seeds used for hand-pollination. The breeding roses Van Fleet refers to were mostly species—*Rosas laevigata, multiflora, rugosa, xanthina, Banksiae*, among others—as well as teas and hybrid teas. Regardless, the introduction of new roses did not noticeably diminish.

During 1916 the rose trade remained healthy in the U.S. and Canada. In France, the rose trials at Bagatelle continued as usual. And though rose authority Robert Pyle of Conard-Pyle Roses was to write that the great continental rose gardens and nurseries for the most part were not situated in areas of the battlefields, several important Irish and English rose growers asserted that they all felt the pinch of paper shortage (thus they abridged or eliminated rose lists and catalogues), the decline in trade and purchasing power of the public, but worse, they felt the scarcity of labor from the thousands of sons and husbands gone to fight, many never to return.

Nonetheless, that situation did not inhibit Alexander Dickson, Hugh Dickson, and Sam McGredy from producing roses at their respective nurseries in Ireland, more roses, perhaps, than that of any other European nation at the time. The old Cant nursery and Elisha Hicks, both of England, and Pernet-Ducher in France also continued to contribute a generous supply of new roses to commerce. Indeed, the rose production from 1914 to 1916 remained virtually the same.

Seven roses, all but one a hybrid tea, are still somewhat commercially available from 1916, most of them found in only one to four different nurseries. 'Columbia', was famous in its day as a breeding rose; 'Red Radiance' is a sport of the famous and still sold 'Radiance' of 1908; 'Isobel', a single hybrid tea; and 'Colcestria', a climber. On the other hand, 'Paul's Scarlet Climber', whose name describes the rose succinctly, is widely available, as is the hybrid multiflora rambler 'Ghislaine de Feligonde', a rather "thornless" wonder. Their vigor, growth, profusion, and loveliness explain their continued popularity today.


Ghislaine de Feligonde

Harder to explain is the decline in popularity of the first American rose to win a Gold Medal at the international rose trials at Bagatelle, 'Los Angeles'. A semi-double pink with apricot undertones, it is a very fragrant rose. Perhaps the color is too like that of many another hybrid tea. Perhaps, for some gardeners, its petals are too few. Or perhaps it has been budded on rootstock other than 'Ragged Robin', in which case (so states the American Rose Society in its1926 annual) it would prove a failure. Historically it deserves a place in gardens of old roses.

Los Angeles

A rose of 1916 that did not survive but earns a mention is 'Tipperary', an Irish rose named for an Irish town and a song sung by Irish soldiers longing for home. Were it still on the market, it would be a living piece of memorabilia.

In 1917 no national rose shows were staged in England. According to one Londoner, there simply was no rose season in that country, but ironically, he continued, "Rarely have we had a year so immune from diseases and pests." Unfortunately the country was not immune from The Great War. Were even as many as four dozen new roses introduced in Great Britain and France in 1917? Certainly the number was very low. After all, that year the war was at its pinnacle in resource usage and slaughter.

Nevertheless, the United States did not want for roses. That year our nation imported over 1,950,000 roses, the majority coming from the Netherlands (1,648,375 roses), the rest coming from England, France, Ireland, Scotland, Belgium, The Azores, and Japan. On the other hand, the U.S. registered only nine new roses that year, four of which were sports. Clearly the USA had yet to embark on an assertive program of producing its own original roses.

One of those roses was a hybrid wichurana named 'General John Pershing' (see page 3) in honor of the most celebrated American hero of WWI, the man who led the American Expeditionary Force in Europe. The rose is very full and large—over 50 petals—a clear dark pink with fragrance, few prickles, and long stems on a shrubby climber of about ten feet high. Though the rose was last listed in *Modern Roses 8* (1980) and though no longer sold anywhere, botanist Fred Boutin has seen it growing in Oregon cemeteries.

K of K

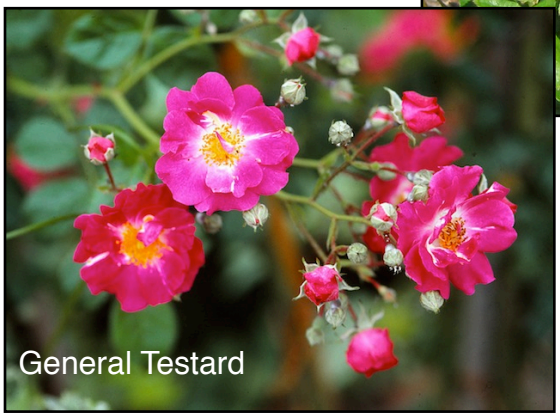
The sports aside, the four surviving roses are 'Purity', 'Noblesse', 'K of K', and 'Miss Edith Cavell'. The white rambler 'Purity' is still sold by four nurseries overseas. Just one nursery in France still offers the hybrid tea 'Noblesse'. Only Rogue Valley Roses in Oregon offers the once highly popular, red hybrid tea 'K of K ('Kitchner of Khartoum'). The rose was named for the Minister of War, Lord Kitchner, who drowned when the ship he was on board was sunk in 1916.

'Miss Edith Cavell' (also 'Edith Cavell' and 'Nurse Cavell') is the sole rose of 1917 most available. A dark red polyantha introduced in the Netherlands, it commemorates Edith Cavell, a young Englishwoman whose nursing school in Brussels became a Red Cross hospital. When Germany invaded Belgium, Edith refused to return home. As a principled nurse, she treated all soldiers, irrespective of nationality. No doubt at this time she was

aware, if not also recipient, of Hoover's aid to the hungry. At some point she began underground resistance work, enabling Belgian, British, and French soldiers to escape into neutral Holland. In August 1915, she was arrested and imprisoned by the Germans for ten weeks. On October 12, 1915, she faced the firing squad. Her last words were "Standing as I do in view of God and Eternity, I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness toward anyone." A memorable rose, and not for its beauty alone.

Even fewer roses—perhaps two dozen or so—were registered in Europe and the U.S. for 1918. Long forgotten (except in the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden) but relevant to this history were roses named 'Verdun' in

Verdun



memory of a battle fought for nearly ten months in 1916; 'Victory' and 'Freedom', the first also known as 'Climbing White American Beauty' and the second a pink rambler, both bred by the New Yorker F. R. Undritz, and both still listed as late as 1980; and 'Peace'—not the first such name for a rose. An earlier 'Peace' had once been sold in 1902—and incidentally, it recently resurfaced in northern New South Wales in an old garden of a Nancy Rudgley. The name would surface again in 1943.

But 'Pax' (Latin for *peace*), a hybrid musk by Pemberton, white with a yellow center, is still much available today, as is his

'Thisbe', another hybrid musk. Indeed, eight roses from 1918 remain on the market. 'Arabella', a hybrid tea'; 'Emma Wright', a hybrid tea; and 'General Testard', a rambler, are each sold by only one nursery. In company with 'Pax' and 'Thisbe', however, are these largely available roses: 'Auguste Gervais', a hybrid wichurana rambler of semi-double apricot pink blossoms; 'Emily Gray', also a wichurana rambler but with full golden yellow flowers; and 'F. J. Grootendorst', a hybrid rugosa from the Netherlands, a bright red. Unusual for rugosas, it has no scent but is almost continuously in bloom.

Emily Gray

The American Rose Society held a symposium in 1917 addressing the question "Shall we grow roses in wartime?" Mrs. Charles F. Hoffman, president of the International Garden Club, reminded the members that the greatest development of roses occurred during the Napoleonic Wars. She then cited a letter from a French florist who lamented the shortage of rose plants due less to decreased production than to their increased necessity to those in sorrow for their loved ones. An editor, Lawrence Abbot, affirmed as much when he argued, "The aesthetic side of life needs care and cultivation in wartime almost more than it does in times of peace." Yes, the world must be made safe for democracy, agreed Dr. Edmund Mills, a later president of the ARS, but "the rose-lover has a contribution to make to man's life that is not nourished by bread alone." Empress Josephine surely understood that affirmation.

To look back at the roses born during the years of World War I is to see that though more hybrid teas were raised than any other class of rose, it is mostly the ramblers and climbers that have survived. True, roses covering walls, pergolas, pillars, and trellises were very popular from the 1890s to the 1920s, but they have held on in popularity a hundred years later. Regardless of the taxonomy of roses grown in that difficult time—hybrid musk, hybrid multiflora, hybrid wichurana, hybrid tea, hybrid rugosa, polyantha—we feel grateful for all those whose roots extend into the 21st century. Their old beauty has become ours.

Edmund Du Cane, age 21, 1851

Late Winter, Perth, Western Australia

Billy West

Recently, several members of the Perth region of Heritage Roses in Australia attended a rose planting ceremony in the Perth suburb of Guildford. Guildford is one of three sites of first European settlement in this part of Western Australia and has a rich heritage, with many well-preserved historic buildings, structures and parks. The historical register of the district also includes a number of significant plantings, and among these are stands of roses planted by Lieutenant Edmund Du Cane, a young army engineer in charge of works in the Guildford area in the 1850s.

One of Du Cane's projects was the construction of Barker's Bridge over the Swan River in Guildford, and when it was completed in 1854, he added roses to beautify the approaches. In a letter to his brother (15th October, 1854), Du Cane wrote, "I have planted roses all along the embankment approaching my bridge – and they have flowered already – and are splendid." (*Roses WA*, Passmore, Morrissey and Kemp, 1993, p12).

The roses Du Cane propagated and planted were all of the same variety--said to be an early form of 'Manettii' (Crivelli, 1835) which produces small, semi-double, violet-pink blooms with white eyes and yellow stamens in the spring time. It can be seen on HelpMeFind as "Manetti in Australia." (There are a number of

roses going by the name 'Manettii', a confusion not helped by the former use of this name as a generic term for 'rootstock'. Thus we sometimes see roses such as 'Indica major' or 'Odorata' named 'Manettii' or 'The Manetti'.)

Du Cane's rose has proven to be extremely tough and long-lived, able to withstand our long, hot, punishing summers and prolonged dry spells. It not only survives on the river banks beside the bridge, but in many, many gardens in and around Perth.

However, an all-too-familiar story follows. Even though they have thrived through all that the elements have thrown at them for over 150 years, the Du Cane roses beside Barker's Bridge have begun to show signs of decline from recent exposure to herbicides. Concerned local residents, working with the local government authority and the Midland Polytechnic hatched a rescue plan which culminated in the recent planting event. Horticultural Studies staff and students from the local Polytechnic campus propagated over fifty plants from cuttings of the original roses in order to support and reinforce the old plantings, and before they were planted, representatives from local community groups, local council and state government gathered to celebrate the occasion.

This level of support for the preservation of historic links is not such a common thing in our part of the world. It is more common for the old to be brushed aside to make way for the new, so it really was cause for celebration.

One of our group, Val Sheill, spoke about the significance and value of old rose survivors – for their potent links to the past and as examples of roses superbly suited to our climate. As we were leaving, the Monsignor of the local seminary asked if we would try to identify some very old roses growing on the grounds.

The first rose we saw was none other than the star of the day, Du Cane's 'Manettii' with its violet-pink blooms, happily scrambling along the base of a small embankment, and large mounds in the distance proved to be 'Fortuniana' just coming into bloom. 'Fortuniana' is a fairly common sight in the Perth area

where its extreme toughness and ability to thrive despite long dry summers and nematode-infested sandy soils inspired local nurseryman Charles Newman to try it as a rootstock in 1903 when his nursery ran out of stock of 'Indica major'. A most fortuitous choice! This rose has proven to be the key to growing strong, healthy roses in Perth's challenging soils where roses budded onto other rootstocks often fail in the summer.

The mounds of 'Fortuniana' at the seminary were of considerable age—planted some time before 1900. We were told that they were treated like the native shrubs and trees, left to their own devices and given absolutely no care. No water through the summers, no fertiliser and no trimming except by the occasional kangaroo, and we wondered how far their roots had spread. They were strong and healthy, covered in short-stemmed buds that looked like fat little candles, just beginning to erupt into blossom.

Fortuniana

The last very old rose we were shown was on an embankment below the original seminary building. There were apparently many roses growing along this bank in earlier times, but just one survives today. As we walked towards it, our guide told us that it was a large, cream-coloured rose and then stopped and corrected himself. No! It was a red rose. When it came into view, we could see that he was right on both counts. The rose was unmistakably 'Hugo Roller', an old Tea rose introduced by William Paul in 1907 that comes in shades of cream, blushed or flushed to varying degrees with carmine and red. Old plants of 'Hugo Roller' have been found in a number of locations in Western Australia and

all across the temperate zones of Australia. It survives in a number of old gardens in the Guildford area (its name recorded as "Yugerola" on one old garden plan) and has been found in old

cemeteries and gardens in Sydney and Melbourne on the east coast and near Adelaide in South Australia.

Of the multitude of Tea roses grown in Australia in the past, most have disappeared without trace. The fact that a small handful, including 'Hugo Roller', 'Etoile de Lyon', 'Comtesse de Labarthe' ('Duchesse de Brabant'), 'Maman Cochet' and 'White Maman Cochet' and their climbing sports, 'Safrano', 'Isabella

Sprunt', 'Anna Olivier' (and the same rose labelled 'Lady Roberts'), 'Madame Lambard', 'E. Veyrat Hermanos', 'Devoniensis' and 'Souvenir de Pierre Notting', as well as some as-yet-unidentified Tea roses, are found frequently in widely separate locations, points to these varieties not only being popular but having exceptional longevity, strength and tenacity. Truly wonder-plants! It is not surprising to see that many of these varieties are also found in the USA, in old cemeteries and on the sites of old gardens.

Given its tenacity, 'Hugo Roller' might also survive in temperate parts of the USA, and it is worth keeping this rose in mind if you come across any old unidentified bi-coloured Teas. There is a list of distinguishing features in '*Tea Roses – Old Roses for Warm Gardens*' that can be used as a preliminary check list.

One of the striking characteristics of 'Hugo Roller' is its tendency to produce many thornless canes and stems. In my own garden, 'Hugo Roller' is trimmed but not pruned hard, and prickles are very rare. For those who have enough time, gentle trimming and shaping during the regular removal of spent blooms is the perfect way to keep Tea roses contained and to encourage fresh new foliage and blooms. Left to their own devices, Teas can become very large and sprawling plants—magnificent in their own way but likely to engulf their neighbours in small gardens!

The person who takes care of the seminary gardens told us that their old rose, their 'Hugo', had been much larger, sprawling across the embankment and that he had cut it back quite hard to try to bring it to a more compact form. Where the thick, old canes had been cut, we saw new, impressively prickly growth emerging, while the less disturbed parts of the plant were thornless. It will be interesting to see whether this old 'Hugo Roller' retains its prickles as the canes age, or if they will fall as the bark hardens.

The horticulture students finished planting the roses beside Barker's Bridge just before the rain started bucketing down--a great omen and a wonderful start for the plants—and we hope and trust that these will thrive and live as long as Du Cane's roses.

Billy West is a co-author of *Tea Roses: Old Roses for Warm Gardens*

RARE ROSES AT MOTTISFONT

Darrell g.h. Schramm

The sign at the railway station read "Alight Here for Mottisfont Abbey." If you find yourself within the vicinity, you must.

Mottisfont, near Winchester, England, is home to three walled gardens and an overflow of historically old and many rare roses. Founded in 1201 as an Augustinian priory (for an order of priests, not monks), it was designated as a subsidiary of Westminster Abbey 300 years later. Four hundred years later again, after it had long become a manor house, the famous rose authority

Graham Stuart Thomas, Garden Advisor for the National Trust, steered the Trust committee toward choosing Mottisfont as the home for his incredible collection of antique roses, this, at a time when very few gardeners neither grew nor concerned themselves with heritage roses. Today, like Europa-Rosarium in Sangerhausen, Germany and Rosaraie de l'Hay in France, it is a repository of history, a living archives. While the three gardens contain a total of about 850 roses, including relatively few duplicates, it is important to know that many, many of these are rare.

Rare or otherwise, the very diversity of the classes of roses here suggests the importance of biological diversity. Indeed, unless one writes a book, a writer cannot do justice to the many uncommon and unusual heritage roses grown at Mottisfont. But a brief discussion of a dozen or so might provide an innuendo.

Daphne

Take the gallica 'Daphne', for example, sold only by the Loubert nursery in France and possibly still by the Beales firm. Not to be confused with Pemberton's 1912 rose, it was bred by the famous Jean-Pierre Vibert in 1819, a time when roses were often given names from classical antiquity. The somewhat mottled lilac-pink rose displays a deep white center embracing an eye of yellow stamens. Daphne, according to Ovid, in Roman mythology was a lovely young woman uninterested in men. When one day Apollo saw her, he fell in love and lust with her and gave chase. Sensing Apollo nearly upon her, Daphne screamed for help from her father, the river-god Peneus. Suddenly she was rooted to the ground, bark enclosing her body, and became metamorphosed into a laurel tree. Ever afterward in memory of her, Apollo used a circlet of laurel leaves to crown victors. Even the Caesars wore them. Today laurel leaves remain an emblem of the Olympic Games.

Twenty-five years later, Vibert produced 'Eulalie Lebrun', a gallica mottled with red-violet, lilac, and some white. Its smooth, rather glossy leaves suggest it is a hybrid. No one any longer sells this rarity. Eulalie Lebrun (1763-1864) was the daughter of Benoit Lebrun, owner of the Chateauneuf-sur-Loire, a castle built in the eleventh century by Henry I. In 1804 she wed Monsieur Ladureau but divorced him for adultery in a renowned court case that lasted from 1818 to 1820. When she inherited the castle in 1819, she began in 1821 to have the park around it landscaped as an English garden. It contained over 450 species and varieties of woody plants, many from the Kennedy nursery in England. No doubt she grew her namesake rose there. By 1832, Chateauneuf-sur-Loire was considered one of the most richly diverse gardens in France. The park remained in the family until 1925 when the city acquired it.

Eulalie Lebrun

'Lycoris' is another spotted, sometimes marbled, deep pink gallica. (See our August issue for a photo.) It was first mentioned in 1838, but the breeder is unknown. Only one French and one Belgian nursery still sell it. *Lycoris* in Greek means "twilight," which hardly suits the rose, even if its pink shade may be one of twilight's colors. Lycoris is also the generic name for the amaryllis family, but that also does not seem to pertain. Perhaps it is a misspelling or variant of Lycorias, the name of a Nereid (sea nymph) in Greek mythology.

'Sultane Favorite' is a fourth uncommon gallica, like the other three growing in the North Garden of Mottisfont, but more violet or purple than the others and without other markings. Vibert in 1823 also bred this one. In Catherine Gore's *The Rose Manual* of 1838, the author lists it under three names: Felicie, Petite Renoncule, and Sultane Favorite, described as "of a purple, shaded with dark red or blueish [sic] violet." Though it is no longer in

Sultane Favorite

commerce, it can yet be found in the Vintage Garden Collection where it goes by the name 'Felicie' and is described as "magenta pink fading paler." 'Petite Renoncule' is the name in Australia where the rose appears more deeply magenta-red. Graham Stuart Thomas, while acknowledging the color given in old French books as purplish, describes his own 'Sultane Favorite' as "clear pink fading paler." He goes on to describe a portland damask with the same name and confusingly gives it virtually the same description.

A rare rose indeed is the centifolia introduced before 1810 by Andre Du Pont, one of Empress Josephine's garden advisors and rose suppliers. This rose is called 'Le Rire Niais'—Foolish Laughter or The Foolish Laugh. Nothing seems laughable or foolish about this rose. A thick circumference of unevenly pink petals surrounds the wide center of red and dark-pink petals around an eye of yellow stamens. The plant is virtually without prickles. Unfortunately—and it's no laughing matter—worldwide no one sells it anymore.

Le Rire Niais

'Gaspard Monge', also a centifolia, is however, sold by one French and two German

nurseries. It was bred by Monsieur Robert in 1854. A blend of pinks, this rose retains the typical cabbage shape until completely open, when it reveals a yellow eye. This is one of the roses correctly labeled which Mottisfont received in the 1980s from Sangerhausen among the latter's many incorrectly labeled roses.

Gaspard Monge

The rose is named for Comte de Peluse, French mathematician who invented both descriptive and differential geometry and helped found Ecole Polytechnique. An atheist and a pro-Revolutionary, Monge (1746-1818) traveled with Napoleon on his Egyptian campaign. After Napoleon's waterloo, all Monge's titles and honors were stripped from him. Yet his is one of the names inscribed on the base of the Eiffel Tower. And in 1989 his remains were transferred to the Pantheon in Paris.

'Pauline Bonaparte', bred by Laffay in 1832, is listed as a light pink bourbon rose. Thomas Rivers claimed it was an "unrivalled" blush rose. I agree. The pink is so pale as to be nearly white, and the plant produces its flowers prolifically. Should it lose its leaves from blackspot, not to worry, for it quickly sends out new foliage and soon afterward another flush of lovely flowers. Supposedly the rose has more than one name. As 'Pauline Bonaparte' it recalls Napoleon's favorite sister who, unfortunately, did not like Empress Josephine, viewing her as a rival *femme galante*. But she had a reputation for being rude and ill-bred and was known for trying to sway Napoleon's feelings against his wife. She later became Princess Borghese. As 'Mrs. Bosanquet' the rose was named for the wife of Englishman George J. Bosanquet, Esq. of Broxbournebury. They lived in a 16th century mansion where they grew one of the largest and finest rose collections of that time. A few good specimens were still growing there in 1910; today the grounds have become the Hertfordshire Golf and Country Club.

But the rose at Mottisfont is a strong, clear pink—nothing pale or blushing about it. I would suggest it is not 'Pauline

Bonaparte', that is, not if it's meant to be synonymous with 'Mrs. Bosanquet'. After all, the rose is not sold anywhere except in the United States. Perhaps this Mottisfont rose is among the fifty or so mislabeled roses that Graham Thomas and David Stone received in the 1980s from Sangerhausen.

'De Condolle' is a moss rose bred by Portemer in 1857, found for sale only in one German and one French rose nursery. Light pink with a button eye, this full rose exhibits crinkled leaves much like a rugosa and allows no hold on its stems for the exuberance of bristles. It was named for the Swiss botanist, Augustin de Condolle (1778-1841) who improved Linneaus' classification system, focusing on plant anatomy rather than physiology and taking into consideration the differences as well as the similarities of plants. He became the first director of Geneva's botanical garden.


De Candolle


Mme Landeau

Another moss rose at Mottisfont is 'Mme Landeau'. Bred by Robert and Moreau in 1873, this somewhat mottled, rich pink or red flower retains its cabbage-rose shape until fully open. The central petals may be a deeper pink than those on the circumference, but as the rose ages, it becomes a darker, more uniform pinkish red. Historically, however, the color descriptions vary from "light red, striped" to "light red, spotted white" and simply "red." These somewhat variable descriptions may be the result of the rose's

location and/or age. And who was Madame Landeau? Over the years numerous beings have acquired that name, including an English racehorse of the 1850s and the madam of a brothel. But the rose might be the namesake of the wife, mother, or other relative of Victor Landeau for whom a prolific, remontant bourbon rose is named.

'Lady Stuart' is a silvery blush-pink hybrid china that ages to white. The breeder may have been Laffay, but Vibert introduced it by 1833. A spinosissima, a centifolia, and a hybrid perpetual also go by this name. In fact, the photos on HelpMeFind.com of the hybrid perpetual look like the hybrid china at Mottisfont. I suspect them to be the same rose. Only Rogue Valley Roses in Oregon sells the plant, but it must be custom-ordered. The rose seems to have been named for Lady Stuart de Rothesay, who in 1816 married Lord Charles Stuart, First Baron Stuart de Rothesay. At various times he was the Envoy Extraordinary to Portugal and Brazil, the English Ambassador to France, and the Ambassador to Russia. In 1830 he began the construction of their home Highcliff Castle whose landscaped gardens overlooked the Isle of Wight. He died in 1845. Lady Stuart, who did not wed again, died in 1867.

'Black Prince', a hybrid perpetual of 1866, is the most commercially available rose described in this survey, sold in seven rose nurseries overseas but only one in the USA, Freedom Nursery in Ohio, where it must be custom-ordered. The color, as one would suspect, is a blackish-crimson or dark maroon,; strongly fragrant and vigorous, it grows to four or five feet. It was bred by the renowned William Paul.

The rose honors Edward, the Black Prince (1330-1376), son of King Edward III, Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, and

Prince of Aquitaine. At age sixteen in 1346, his father had him fight at the Battle of Crecy. Tradition has it that prior to the battle, the King presented his son with a black cuirass (armor to protect back and breast), from which he acquired his nickname. Ten years later, though greatly outnumbered, he demonstrated his military genius by not only defeating the French but also capturing King Jean at the Battle of Poitiers. He died, probably of dysentery, a week before his 46th birthday. His son became King Richard II.

Another hybrid perpetual, one bred by Vigneron in 1883, is 'Capitaine Louis Frere', also known as 'Monsieur le Capitaine Louis Frere'. Usually crimson, it can show itself as vivid light red, but is invariably quite large and full, and not particularly "thorny." Only Long Ago Roses in North Carolina sells it, but the nursery does not ship to the Pacific states or those that border them, thus further limiting access to this rose. The plant is named for Captain Louis Frere de Lachaise, a sub-lieutenant in the Seven Years War, the result of which France lost Canada to England. Obviously, at some point he was promoted.

The most unusual and certainly rarest rose named in this article caused somewhat of an excited stir at this year's Mottisfont conference. That rose is 'Adam Rackles', a hybrid tea of 1905. Not a single volume of *Modern Roses* lists it. Of those who included rose lists in their books of that era, neither Parsons, Ellwanger, Pemberton, nor Henslow mention it. Simon and Cochet list it in the appendix of the 1906 edition of their *Nomenclature*. Europa-Rosarium, Sangerhausen includes the rose in its 2007 catalogue. David Ruston of Renmark, Australia, carries a found rose "Hill St. Daylesford" in his collection, which is thought to be 'Adam Rackles'; certainly the form and coloration of the blossom show it to be so. And Mottisfont lists it as a rose "unobtainable within the U.K." In short, the rose is not in commerce today and apparently has not been for a long time.

The coloring and texture of 'Adam Rackles' is such that several of us who saw it first in a vase and later on a bush in the South Garden asked each other if the flowers were real. A white rose with random, subtle-pink, almost cryptic stripes and ruffled edges, the texture and sheen create the appearance of a highly glazed ceramic or fine porcelain china, or even as though carved

out of pearl. From certain angles the rose looks opalescent. Touching the remarkable petals confirms that it is indeed alive and all the more lovely for being so. That such an exquisite rose disappeared from the nursery trade and is threatened with extinction is nothing short of a calamity. 'Adam Rackles' was named for a wine merchant of Frankfurt am Main, Germany, who supposedly invented apple wine, a clever and logical marriage of wine and roses.

A number of organizations in the USA, New Zealand, Australia, England, and elsewhere strive to locate, identify, describe, and preserve antique roses, especially those in danger of extinction (the Heritage Roses Group being the first and oldest of this kind to do so). It is vital that we document, collect, and conserve what remains of the genetic diversity in old cultivars. Beyond the beauty and serenity these roses provide us, their genetic material offers important varied foliage, petalage, texture, form, profusion of flower, fragrance, and different degrees of hardiness and health, especially given the climatic changes of our current world. How many roses appear, like 'Adam Rackles', to be crafted of fine, glazed ceramic? We must preserve the best and rarest of our heritage roses, if not all of them. In the name of biological diversity and beauty, we have no choice.

TO JOIN OR RENEW HERITAGE ROSES GROUP
Send $16 for the print format of *Rose Letter*
or $10 for the digital format
to Clay Jennings, Membership Chair,
22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010
or contact him at e.c.jennings@gmail.com.
Visit www.theheritagerosesgroup.org for more information.

Confessions of a Propagation Junkie: Propagating Roses from Cuttings

Karen Jefferson

Propagating roses from cuttings is fun but can be addicting. My first introduction to rose propagation was at a class in the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden. After that I was addicted. While roses can be propagated from dormant or hardwood cuttings, my experience is with softwood and semi-hardwood and will be the focus of this article.

The best advice I've received about propagation is to listen how others propagate plants and then choose those techniques most suited to your own personality, environment, and available equipment. In other words, develop your own propagation style.

Propagation Methods: An Overview

The method of propagation that you choose depends on your climate, available materials, and time of year. The goal is to keep the cuttings sufficiently humid and warm to allow roots to develop. Provide enough humidity to keep the upper leaves on the stem as long as possible, as leaves help keep the stem alive and speed the rooting process. Cuttings also need air circulation to prevent bacterial and fungal diseases. And all cuttings must be out of direct sunlight, with filtered light as ideal.

In areas of higher humidity and moisture, cuttings can be stuck directly into the ground or container without protection. Where humidity is low, a cover to increase humidity improves rooting success. Covers include baggies for both planting and as a dome, cloches such as a 2-liter transparent bottle with the bottom cut off, propagation domes with adjustable vent holes to control humidity, and terrariums.

Another way to add humidity is a misting station, one as simple as a timed sprinkler under a tree or in a greenhouse. In areas with high humidity, daily or semi-daily misting may suffice. In less humid areas, you might program a misting timer to a range of durations (5, 10, 15 seconds, etc.) and frequencies (minutes to hours).

The inside of your house is a prime propagation location. Initially, check cuttings daily or every other day to ensure sufficient humidity, moisture, air, and warmth. Cuttings need extra care and attention. If propagating at a temperature below 70 degrees, consider using bottom heat. With bottom heat, be aware that cuttings will dry out more quickly and, therefore, need more frequent monitoring.

Cleanliness is a key to success. All containers and propagation equipment should be cleaned with 10% bleach solution to reduce bacterial diseases, the greatest cause of cutting death.

Take the Cuttings

Rose cuttings (cut stems) can be taken anytime from first bloom through final new growth. In Northern California that can be April to early November. Choose stems with buds, blooms, or spent blooms. This wood is optimal for rooting. Each cutting should have 4 bud eyes, but you can root successfully with three. A bud eye is found where the leaf intersects a stem. If possible, make sure the rose has been well watered a day or two before taking the cuttings.

If you don't use your cuttings right away, wrap them in paper towels, place them in a zip-lock bag, wet the cuttings with water, and seal the bag, storing it in a cool place (ice chest or refrigerator) for several days before use.

Prepare the cuttings by removing the leaves attached to the two (or one) lower bud eyes, and keep the 2 top sets of leaves. These remaining leaves provide photosynthesis and allow the cuttings to survive longer before rooting. Remove the bloom if there is one. Trim the stem within ¼" to 1/16" below the lowest bud eye, and wound the bottom portion of the stem by scraping a piece of the epidermis away.

Many people first soak the cuttings (prior to applying rooting hormone) in willow water, a synthetic rooting solution (like K-L-N), or a fungicide, which assists in preventing fungal disease.

Always use a rooting hormone. Even if a plant does not need it, studies show that synthetic hormones promote larger roots. A liquid rooting hormone is better than powder; place whatever

you need to dip your cuttings in a small Dixie cup or vial and dispose of that hormone after use.

Stick the Cutting

Propagation media can be a purchased or home-blended soilless mixture, an Oasis Wedge-like product, or coir. The Oasis Wedge-like product gives excellent drainage and allows you to see roots without removing the cuttings. A popular mixture is 50% perlite and 50% organic potting soil. Mix the organic soil & perlite in a small bin to pie dough consistency—it forms clumps but falls apart.

You can place the propagation medium directly into a terrarium or tray and the cuttings into that medium; however, if one cutting gets a disease, it can quickly spread to the others. Better is to put the cuttings into small containers.

Container size can range from six-packs to one-gallon pots. Place the potting mixture into the container, dip the cutting into the rooting hormone, poke a hole in the propagation medium (usually Oasis already has a hole), and stick the cutting into it.

Label the cuttings! Write the propagation date with the name of the plant variety. The date helps determine when to start looking for roots.

Monitor the Cuttings

Monitor the cuttings daily or every other day, looking for moist but not wet or swampy soil and for water droplets or mist in your propagation environment. If not using a misting station, re-humidify the cuttings and their environment by manually misting them.

After a couple of weeks, start checking for roots. In a soil-perlite mixture you can check the bottom of the container for protruding roots or, in the case of Oasis, gently remove the Oasis wedge from its container to determine if the cutting has rooted. Don't assume that if the cutting is developing leaves that there are roots. Some varieties of rose develop new leaves on cuttings without roots.

Transplant the Rooted Cuttings

Once cuttings are rooted, move them to a larger pot. Many people move them directly to a one-gallon pot. Because a few cuttings may not survive this transition, you can move them first to

16 oz. clear plastic cups that have the bottoms removed. This allows you to monitor further root development. To keep the potting soil in the bottomless cup, line the bottom of the cup with a circle of newspaper. You can also use these bottomless cups to start cuttings, as they allow you to see new roots without disturbing them. If you have the space, give it a try. After the roots develop, gradually acclimate the cuttings to the outdoors. This can be a few days or more after transplanting.

Many roses root better at a particular time of year. So experiment with timing, and don't be discouraged by failure. I've learned as much through my failures as my successes. Most of all, have fun.

PHOTO & COVER CREDITS

Front Cover . . . 'Rosa Centifolia' by Gerardus van Spaendonck (1746-1822)
Pages 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 19 & 29 . . . . . Bill Grant
Pages 3, 5, 13, 16, 18, 20, 22 & 30 . . . Darrell Schramm
Pages 8 & 17 . . . Karl King
Page 9 . . . 'Verdun' - D. Schramm; 'Gen. Testard' - B. Grant
Page 11 . . . Royal Engineers Museum of BBC, UK
Page 14 . . . *The Garden: An Illustrated Weekly* v. 72, 1908, plate #1845, page 177, supplied by Billy West
Page 21 'De Candolle' -B. Grant; 'Mme Landeau' - D. Schramm
Page 24 . . . Postcard and label, various websites
Back Cover . . . . . Maria Cecilia Freeman, original watercolor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nov. 13-16 . . . Heritage Rose Foundation Conference, New Orleans, www.heritagerosefoundation.org

Nov. 22 . . . 10:00 AM, Fall Color in the Rose Garden, led by Anita Clevenger, Sacramento Historic Cemetery, 1000 Broadway

Jan. 10 . . . 9:00 to 3:00, Pruning Party. Rose Garden of Sacramento Historic City Cemetery

from our Archives, November 1980 issue:

TWO FAVORITE ROSES

Cynthia Westcott

'HENRY NEVARD': I first met Henry Nevard more than forty years ago. A client in New Jersey had a row of bushes, and we spent much time whacking them down to a reasonable height. Despite its propensity to reach towards heaven, Henry Nevard remains my favorite hybrid perpetual. The large, double flowers, dark red, with little tendency to blue on aging, are very fragrant, and there is a fair amount of repeat bloom. The leaves are large, dark green, with good substance. My vigorous bushes have never had any winter protection. 'Henry Nevard' is a fairly recent hybrid perpetual introduced by Cant in England, in 1924.

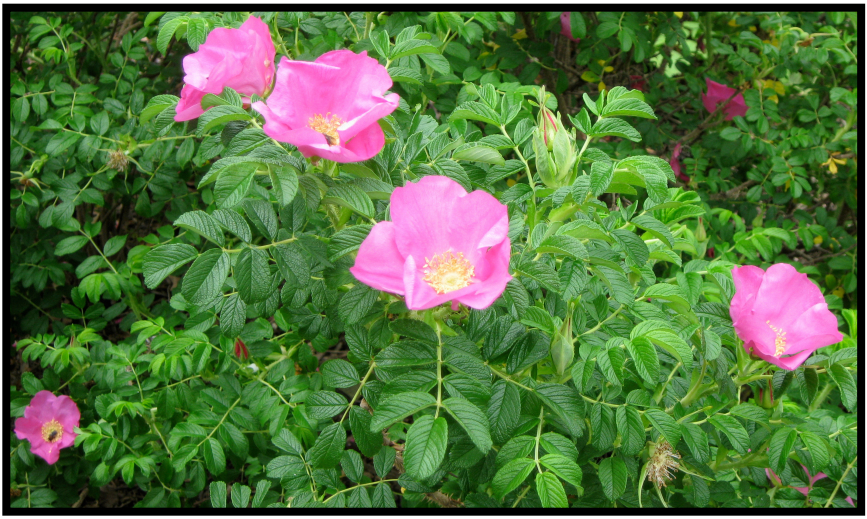
ROSA HUGONIS initiates the rose season with nearly a month of luxuriant bloom before the hybrid teas begin. When I tried this species in New Jersey, I killed it with kindness. By the time I moved to Springvale, NY, I had learned my lesson. Two bushes were planted 18 years ago in rather thin soil, near a rock, and far away from pampered roses. Here *R. hugonis* has never been sprayed, fertilized, watered or winter-protected. Sometimes the long, arching cane have been shortened a bit, sometimes a little dead wood cut out, but that is all the attention it has received. The results have been absolutely spectacular. Every May the yellow, single flowers, 2 1/2 inches across, formed on short pedicels all along the canes, produce a huge fountain of breathtaking beauty. This is, of course, a once-bloomer, but the fernlike foliage remains attractive all season. This species, known also as the Golden Rose of China and Father Hugo's Rose, was discovered in China by a Catholic missionary, Father Hugh Scannon. He collected the seed and sent it to England in 1899.

from *Horticulture*, vol. XIV, March 1, 1936

from **THE ROSES OF OLDEN TIMES**

Ethelyn E. Keays

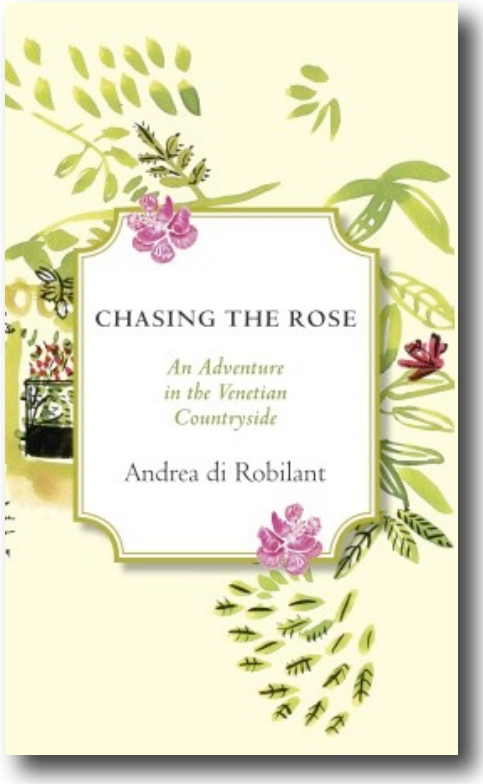
Rosa rugosa is really of much earlier history than the date 1845, given by Mr. Sturtevant in *Horticulture* for February 15, would indicate. It had the honor of being in Josephine's garden at Malmaison, in both the pink- and white-flowered kinds, but its story goes back of that date. *R. rugosa* had several synonyms in the course of its record, being known as *R. ferox* and *R. kamtchatica* in the earliest lists. Thunberg writes about it in his "Flora Japonica"in 1784. In 1796 it was introduced into England by Lee and Kennedy, the nurserymen, and in volume 5 of the *Botanical Register* of 1819 there is a plate, number 29, called *R. kamtchatica.* "Hortus Kewensis" listed it in 1811 as *R. ferox.* Lindley recorded it so in 1820 in his "Ros. Mon." In Redoutè's "Roses" it is pictured as *R. kamtchatica.* Mary Lawrance in 1799, plate 42, and Andrews in 1828, in volume II, plate 129, both called it *R. ferox.* In Curtis's *Botancial Magazine* it appears again as *R. kamtchatica.* This confusion of names had doubtless led to a certain loss of identity of *R. rugosa* as an old and honored rose.



R. rugosa at Quarryhill Botanic Gardens, California

CHASING THE ROSE: A REVIEW

Darrell g.h. Schramm



Chasing the Rose by Andrea di Robilant.
NY: Alfred A. Knopf. 2014.
$26.95

Chasing the Rose is a quietly exciting sequel to the 2008 biography *Lucia: A Venetian Life in the Age of Napoleon*. Whereas the earlier book, though fascinating for great portions, was at times overly detailed and tediously paced, both pace and content of this new volume are fluent and relevant.

The author, a great-great-great-great grandson of Lucia Mocenigo who had known Empress Josephine well and had established a large garden on the family estate in Italy, had mentioned in the first book a particular old, pink rose growing on the estate. That little detail led to an invitation by a rose doyenne in Artegna of northern Italy, Eleonora Garlant who, with her loving husband, grew hundreds of roses—mostly species and heritage roses—on a huge acreage. Could the rose Robilant described be one of the lost chinas of the early 1800s? The chase was on in the attempt to discover the identity of this peach-and-raspberry scented rose. In that attempt the author meets such notable rosarians as Francois Joyaux and Helga Brichet. The mystery in the chase becomes as intriguing as the mystery of the rose itself.

The large central section of the book focuses on Eleonora and her rose collection of nearly 1500 old roses. (YouTube presents a charming film of Eleonora Garlant and her husband Valentino Fabiani and their roses.)

Di Robilant does present some incorrect information here and there. He describes the rose 'Duchesse de Montebello" as a climber, which it is not. (But perhaps the one he saw was a sport?) The author also mentions "scarlet red Gallicas," but scarlet contains yellow; no Gallic I know nor whose descriptions I have read is scarlet. Furthermore, it is doubtful that, as he writes of gallicas, "we can trace [their history] all the way back to the beginnings."

In a long footnote, he states that Catherine of Wurttemberg at Wilhelmshohe "corresponded regularly and exchanged many roses" with Empress Josephine. But we have evidence of only one letter, and that one by Catherine mentions sending rose plants to Josephine—hardly an exchange.

Di Robilant also claims that Salomon Pinhas was asked by Catherine to paint the roses in "her garden." Pinhas, however, apparently had already painted most of the roses at Wilhelmshohe much earlier under Wilhelm IX (later to become Wilhelm I) who had appointed him court painter in 1788. That was long before Catherine and Jerome Bonaparte took over the vast estate under Napoleon late in 1806. Indeed, shortly before the takeover, Pinhas had requested an annual salary in order to put his paintings together for Wilhelm IX's commissioned rose book. What Pinhas painted under the new royal couple were portraits of Jerome himself, of the palace guards, and of soldiers.

The author further declares that Daniel August Schwarzkopf was Catherine's gardener. In fact, Schwarzkopf had been head gardener—and likely Germany's first garden-rose breeder—first under Frederich II then under Wilhelm IX since 1766. By 1806 he had retired, and Herr Sennholz had become head gardener at Wilhelmshohe.

These errors, however, should not dissuade anyone from reading this enjoyable book. They are minor tangents to a compelling, true story. I intend to read it again.

HERITAGE ROSE GROUPS

San Francisco Bay, CA	**BAY AREA GROUP** Convener: Kristina Osborn Contact: Joan Helgeson 184 Bonview St., San Francisco, CA 94110; 415-648-0241 brunner1941@yahoo.com
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San Jose, CA	**SOUTH BAY GROUP** Jill Perry 829 32nd Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062 oldtearose@gmail.com or perry@calcentral.com
Central Coast, CA	**CENTRAL COAST GROUP** Jill Perry (Same as above: South Bay)
Sacramento, CA	**YOLO & BEYOND GROUP** Barbara Oliva boliva@macnexus.org; and Anita Clevenger anitac@surewest.net
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Northern CA San Benito Co.	**SAN JUAN BAUTISTA HRG** Loryn Ross: Loryn000@aol.com http://sjbheritageroses.weebly.com
South-Central CA Coast (L.A., Ventura, Santa Barbara & SLO counties)	**GOLD COAST GROUP** Jeri and Clay Jennings 22 Gypsy Ln., Camarillo, CA 93010-1320; heritageroses@gmail.com
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The Yellow Booklet by Darrell g.h. Schramm, reviewed in *The Yellow Rose* newsletter, September issue, can be purchased for $4.50 + 50 cents postage per copy. For a copy, write to Darrell g.h. Schramm, 101 Benson Ave., Vallejo, CA 94590.
Please write your check to The Heritage Roses Group.

Rosa Spithamea
Painted by Maria Cecilia Freeman
We apologize if the print in the watercolor is hard to read.